

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1-21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently amended) A hood, in particular for a clothing item for protective and military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit, said hood comprising:
a ~~circumferential (peripheral)~~ peripheral elastic hem constructed and arranged to form a face opening, the face opening being provided for receiving a respirator and the hem being constructed and arranged in abutting relation to the respirator in the use state, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ one side of said hem ~~[[that]]~~ faces into the face opening and is provided with a ~~multiplicity~~ plurality of ~~circumferential~~ peripheral sealing elements which are ~~durably~~ conjoined with the hem and are in the form of elastofibers for ~~closeout~~ abutment ~~[[of]]~~ against and around the respirator, wherein the individual sealing elements are in substantially parallel arrangement with each other.
23. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements abut the respirator essentially linearly.
24. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements project or protrude from the hem.
25. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 24, wherein the sealing elements project or protrude from the hem by not less than 0.25 mm, preferably not less than 0.4 mm.
26. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements are secured to the hem by stitching, interweaving, adhering, stapling or welding.

27. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements are each configured as a sealing ring, as a sealing lip or as a sealing protrusion.
28. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements are thread, ligament-, string- or strip- shaped or webbed- or honeycomb-shaped.
- 29-30. (Canceled)
31. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the cross-sectional thickness of the sealing elements is not less than 1/4 of the cross-sectional thickness of the hem.
32. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the elasticity of the sealing elements corresponds at least essentially to the elasticity of the hem.
33. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements have a relative elastic extensibility, based on their original length, of not less than 30 %.
34. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the material of which the sealing elements consist has, at 25 °C, a modulus of elasticity in stretching in the range of from $5 \cdot 10^5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$ to $9 \cdot 10^6 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$.
35. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the hood including the face opening comprises, on the side portion of face opening, a fastener.

36. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the hood is fully or partially lined on its inside surface with an inside material, the inside material comprising a material selected from the group consisting of: (i) an adsorption-capable material on the basis of activated carbon, and (ii) a water-vapor-pervious, but gas-impervious barrier layer preventing or retarding the passage of harmful gases and liquids.
37. (Previously presented) A clothing item, in particular for protective and/or military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit or the like, comprising a hood as defined in claim 22.
38. (Previously presented) The clothing item according to claim 37, wherein the clothing item is fully or partially lined on its inside surface with an inside material, the inside material comprising a material selected from the group consisting of: (i) an adsorption-capable material on the basis of activated carbon, and (ii) a water-vapor-pervious, but gas-impervious barrier layer preventing or retarding the passage of harmful gases and liquids.
39. (Currently amended) A clothing item, in particular for protective and military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit or the like, said clothing item comprising:
- at least one opening for a body part, such as a hand, arm, foot, leg or head, having a ~~circumferential~~ peripheral elastic hem constructed and arranged to form this opening, the opening being provided for receiving a further clothing item or an equipment article and the hem being constructed and arranged in abutting relation to the further clothing item or the equipment article in the use state, wherein [[the]] one side of [[the]] said hem [[that]] faces the further clothing item or the equipment article and faces into the opening and is provided with a ~~multiplicity~~ plurality of circumferential peripheral sealing elements which are ~~durably~~ conjoined with the hem and are in the form of elastofibers for ~~closeout~~ abutment

[[of]] against and around the further clothing item or equipment article, wherein the individual sealing elements are in substantially parallel arrangement with each other.

40. (Currently amended) A method for closing out the transition between a portion of a clothing item on the one hand and a further clothing item or equipment article on the other hand by using an elastic hem, comprising the [[step]] steps of:

forming [[a]] an elastic hem that faces the further clothing item or the equipment article, ~~said hem being provided with a multiplicity of circumferential ;~~

providing a plurality of sealing elements ~~which are durably conjoined with the hem and are~~ in the form of elastofibers; and

conjoining said plurality of sealing elements with said hem for closeout abutment of the further clothing item or equipment article.

41. (Canceled)